

Federal Housing Finance Board

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part against any such director or executive officer, if such notice is served before the end of the two-year period beginning on the date such director or executive officer ceases to be associated with the Bank.

§ 908.13 Public disclosure of final orders.

(a) *In general.* The Finance Board shall make available to the public—

(1) Any written agreement or other written statement for which a violation may be redressed by the Finance Board or any modification to or termination thereof, unless the Finance Board in its discretion, determines that public disclosure would be contrary to the public interest;

(2) Any order that is issued by the Board of Directors and that has become final in accordance with this part; and

(3) Any modification to or termination of any final order made public pursuant to this part.

(b) *Delay of public disclosure under exceptional circumstances.* If the Finance Board determines in writing that the public disclosure, pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, of any final decision and order of the Board of Directors would seriously threaten the financial health or security of a Bank, the Finance Board may delay the public disclosure of such decision and order for a reasonable time.

(c) *Documents filed under seal.* The Finance Board may file any document or part thereof under seal in any hearing commenced by the Finance Board under this part, if it determines in writing that disclosure thereof would be contrary to the public interest.

(d) *Retention of documents.* The Finance Board shall keep and maintain a record, for not less than six years, of all documents described in paragraph (a) of this section and all enforcement agreements and other supervisory actions and supporting documents issued with respect to or in connection with any enforcement proceeding initiated by the Finance Board under this part or any other law.

(e) *Disclosure to Congress.* This section may not be construed to authorize the withholding, or to prohibit the disclosure, of any information to the Con-

gress or any committee or subcommittee thereof.

§ 908.14 No implied private right of action.

This part shall not create any private right of action on behalf of any person against a Bank or any director or executive officer of a Bank or impair any existing private right of action under applicable law.

§§ 908.15–908.19 [Reserved]

Subpart C—General Rules

§ 908.20 Authority of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors may, at any time during the pendency of a proceeding under this part, perform, direct the performance of, or waive the performance of any act that could be done or ordered by the presiding officer.

§ 908.21 Authority of the presiding officer.

(a) *General rule.* All cease and desist or civil money penalty proceedings governed by this subpart shall be conducted in a hearing on the record in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 551–559. The presiding officer shall have complete charge of the hearing, conduct a fair and impartial hearing, avoid unnecessary delay, and assure that a record of the hearing is made.

(b) *Powers.* The presiding officer shall have all powers necessary to conduct the hearing in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section and 5 U.S.C. 556(c). The presiding officer is authorized to—

(1) Set and change the date, time and place of the hearing upon reasonable notice to the parties;

(2) Continue or recess the hearing in whole or in part for a reasonable period of time;

(3) Hold conferences to identify or simplify the issues, or to consider other matters that may aid in the expeditious disposition of the proceeding, including settlement conferences, mediation or other consensual methods of dispute resolution;

(4) Administer oaths and affirmations;

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(5) Issue subpoenas, subpoenas *duces tecum*, and protective orders, as authorized by this part, and to revoke, quash, or modify such subpoenas;

(6) Take and preserve testimony under oath;

(7) Rule on motions and other procedural matters appropriate in a hearing, except that only the Board of Directors shall have the power to grant any motion to dismiss a cease and desist or civil money penalty proceeding or to make a final determination on the merits of such proceedings;

(8) Regulate the scope and timing of discovery;

(9) Regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of representatives and parties;

(10) Examine witnesses;

(11) Receive, exclude, limit, or otherwise rule on evidence;

(12) Upon motion of a party, take official notice of facts;

(13) Recuse herself/himself upon motion made by a party or on her or his own motion;

(14) Prepare and present to the Board of Directors a recommended decision as provided in this part;

(15) Establish time, place and manner limitations on the attendance of the public and the media for any public hearing; and

(16) Do all other things necessary and appropriate to discharge the duties of a presiding officer.

§ 908.22 Public hearings.

(a) *General rule.* All hearings shall be open to the public, unless the Finance Board, in its discretion, determines that holding an open hearing would be contrary to the public interest. The Finance Board may make such determination *sua sponte* at any time by written notice to all parties.

(b) *Motion for closed hearing.* Within twenty (20) days of service of a notice, any party or respondent may file with the presiding officer a motion for a non-public hearing and any party may file a pleading in reply to the motion. The presiding officer shall forward the motion and any reply, together with a recommended decision on the motion, to the Board of Directors, who shall make a final determination. Such mo-

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tions and replies shall be governed by § 908.45.

(c) *Filing documents under seal.* The Finance Board, in its discretion, may file any document, or any part of any document, under seal if the agency makes a written determination that disclosure of the document would be contrary to the public interest. The presiding officer shall take all appropriate steps to preserve the confidentiality of such documents or parts thereof, including closing portions of the hearing to the public.

§ 908.23 Good faith certification.

(a) *General requirement.* Every filing or submission of record following the issuance of a notice by the Finance Board shall be signed by at least one representative of record in her or his individual name and shall state that representative's address and telephone number and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all other representatives of record for the person making the filing or submission.

(b) *Effect of signature.* (1) By signing a document, the representative of record or party certifies that—

(i) The representative of record or party has read the filing or submission of record;

(ii) To the best of her or his knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the filing or submission of record is well-grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith, non-frivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, regulation or Finance Board policy or order; and

(iii) The filing or submission of record is not made for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(2) If a filing or submission of record is not signed, the presiding officer shall strike the filing or submission of record, unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the pleader or movant.

(c) *Effect of making oral motion or argument.* The act of making any oral motion or oral argument by any representative or party shall constitute a certification that to the best of her or his knowledge, information, and belief,